

REMARKS

Claims 2-11, 13-19 and 21 currently appear in this application. The Office Action of September 7, 2007, has been carefully studied. These claims define novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103 of 35 U.S.C., and therefore should be allowed. Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration, entry of the present amendment, and formal allowance of the claims.

Specification

The specification is objected to because of the improper use of legal terminology, in this case, the word "said."

Accordingly, submitted here is a substitute abstract on a separate sheet.

Art Rejections

Claims 1-6, 8, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent 00075438

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 12 has been cancelled and the limitations thereof introduced into claim 1 as new claim 21. All of the remaining claims depend from claim 21, so it is believed that this rejection is now moot.

Claims 9 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over EP'438.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 12 has been cancelled and the limitations thereof introduced into claim 1 as new claim 21. All of the remaining claims depend from claim 21, so it is believed that this rejection is now moot.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP'438 in view of Japanese Patent Publication 11-117024.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 12 has been cancelled and the limitations thereof introduced into claim 1 as new claim 21. All of the remaining claims depend from claim 21, so it is believed that this rejection is now moot.

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP-438 in view of JP'024 as applied above, and further in view of Boyer et al., U.S. 5,798,007.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 12 has been cancelled and the limitations thereof introduced into claim 1 as new claim 21. All of the remaining claims depend from claim 21, so it is believed that this rejection is now moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 19-12, 15 and 18-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As the limitations of allowable claim 12 have been incorporated into claim 1 as new claim 21, and all of the remaining claims depend from new claim 21, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims are now allowable.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance, and favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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